IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A method of simultaneously bending two or more superposed glass sheets, comprising the sequential steps of:

allowing the glass sheets to sag under gravity;

placing a central region of the superposed glass sheets into contact with a male former in a bending cell, said male former being surrounded by a passage between the male former and a surrounding skirt, by advancing a female former supporting the superposed glass sheets toward the male former located above the female former, while continuously supporting the glass sheets with the female former;

pressing a peripheral region of the superposed glass sheets between the male former and the female former, wherein the glass sheets are continuously supported by the female former until at least the commencement of the pressing step;

applying a partial vacuum to an uppermost one of the superposed glass sheets through the convex surface of the male former, which has means for applying a partial vacuum through the convex surface, while continuing the pressing step, wherein application of the partial vacuum commences after the upper glass sheet has made contact with the male former;

discontinuing the pressing step by separating the male former from the female former, the superposed glass sheets remaining in contact with the male former under an effect of a partial vacuum at least partly applied through the passage between the male former and the skirt surrounding the male former;

while the superposed glass sheets are in contact with the male former under the effect of the partial vacuum, bringing a cooling support under the glass sheets;

stopping the partial vacuum to allow the superposed glass sheets to rest on the cooling support; and

taking the superposed glass sheets away for cooling the glass outside the bending cell.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the gravity-induced sag is mainly cylindrical and leads to a deflection approximately equal to a final deflection.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein during the step of applying the partial vacuum through the male former, positive gas pressure is also applied through the male former in a central region of the glass sheets, the male former being covered with a fibrous material.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the sag is at least partly brought about in a tunnel oven through which the glass sheets are conveyed toward the bending cell, the glass being placed on a sag support.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the sag is at least partly brought about on a sag support occupying an area inscribed entirely, seen from above, within the female former, and the female former moves the glass sheets by rising toward the male former and passing around the sag support.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the sag support is a skeleton set back by at least 2 cm from a peripheral edge of the glass sheets.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the bending is carried out at a temperature of less than 640°C.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A bending system for carrying out the method as defined in claim 13, comprising:

an oven including a system for transporting a skeleton-supported glass sheet, that moves the skeleton to a bending cell, the cell comprising a frame or annular female former, the skeleton occupying an area inscribed entirely, seen from above, within the annular female former, and a convex male former located above the annular female former;

means for discharging the skeleton from the bending cell; and

means for moving vertically the annular female former, and the male former being provided with means for applying a partial vacuum through its convex surface.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The system as claimed in claim 20, wherein [[a]] the skirt surrounds the male convex former such that a partial vacuum can be applied around the outside of a glass sheet near a narrow edge of the glass sheet.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): An application of the method of claim 13 to production of a laminated glazing having locally a coefficient of non-developability greater than 2.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): A method of simultaneously bending two or more superposed glass sheets, comprising the sequential steps of:

allowing the glass sheets to sag under gravity;

placing a central region of the superposed glass sheets into contact with a male former in a bending cell, said male former being surrounded by a passage between the male former and a surrounding skirt, by advancing a female former supporting the superposed glass sheets toward the male former located above the female former, while continuously supporting the glass sheets with the female former;

pressing a peripheral region of the superposed glass sheets between the male former and the female former, wherein the glass sheets are continuously supported by the female former until at least the commencement of the pressing step;

applying a partial vacuum to an uppermost one of the superposed glass sheets through the convex surface of the male former, which is at least partly air permeable, while continuing the pressing step, wherein application of the partial vacuum commences after the upper glass sheet has made contact with the male former;

discontinuing the pressing step by separating the male former from the female former, the superposed glass sheets remaining in contact with the male former under an effect of a partial vacuum at least partly applied through the passage between the male former and the skirt surrounding the male former;

while the superposed glass sheets are in contact with the male former under the effect of the partial vacuum, bringing a cooling support under the glass sheets;

stopping the partial vacuum to allow the superposed glass sheets to rest on the cooling support; and

taking the superposed glass sheets away for cooling the glass outside the bending cell.